

MICROSOFT PRESS®

# COMPUTER DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION



INFORMATION CENTER

OCT 28 1993

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THE COMPREHENSIVE  
STANDARD FOR  
BUSINESS, SCHOOL,  
LIBRARY, AND HOME



*Project Editor D.*

QA  
76.15  
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1993  
C. 100

PUBLISHED BY  
Microsoft Press  
A Division of Microsoft Corporation  
One Microsoft Way  
Redmond, Washington 98052-6399

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Microsoft Press computer dictionary : the comprehensive standard for business, school, library, and home / Microsoft Press. -- 2nd ed.

p. cm.  
ISBN 1-55615-597-2

1. Computers--Dictionaries. 2. Microcomputers--Dictionaries.  
I. Microsoft Press. II. Title: Computer dictionary.

QA76.15.M54 1993  
004'.03--dc20

93-29868  
CIP

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 MLML 9 8 7 6 5 4

Distributed to the book trade in Canada by Macmillan of Canada, a division of Canada Publishing Corporation.

Distributed to the book trade outside the United States and Canada by Penguin Books Ltd.

Penguin Books Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England  
Penguin Books Australia Ltd., Ringwood, Victoria, Australia  
Penguin Books N.Z. Ltd., 182-190 Wairau Road, Auckland 10, New Zealand

British Cataloging-in-Publication Data available.

**Project Editor:** Casey D. Doyle

**Manuscript Editor:** Alice Copp Smith

**Technical Editors:** Mary DeJong, Jeff Carey, Dail Magee, Jr., Jim Fuchs, Seth McEvoy



dows NT Advanced Server also offers advanced hard disk fault-tolerance features, such as mirroring, and additional connectivity. *See also* Windows NT.

**wire-frame model** In computer graphics applications such as CAD programs, a display of a three-dimensional object composed of separate lines that resemble strands of wire joined to create a model. *Compare* solid model.

**wire-pin printer** *See* dot-matrix printer.

**wire-wrapped circuits** Circuits constructed on perforated boards using wire instead of the metal traces found on printed circuit boards. The bare ends of insulated wires are wrapped around the long pins of special wire-wrap integrated circuit sockets. Wire-wrapped circuits are generally handmade one-of-a-kind devices used for prototyping and research in electrical engineering. Their advantage is that the wires are easily unwrapped and the pin-to-pin connections changed, permitting circuit designers to experiment with a circuit's design without having to layout and etch a new printed circuit board. *Compare* printed circuit board.

**wizard** Someone who is adept at making computers perform their "magic"; an outstanding and creative programmer or a power user.

**wizzywig** *See* WYSIWYG.

**word** The native unit of storage on a particular machine. Depending on the microprocessor, a word can be an 8-bit, a 16-bit, or a 32-bit quantity.

**word-addressable processor** A processor that cannot access an individual byte of memory but can access only a larger unit. In order to perform operations on an individual byte, the processor must read and write memory in the larger unit. For example, a word-addressable processor might read a word (two bytes) from memory at one time, add a value to only one of the bytes, and then write the word back to memory.

**word length** Typically, a standard data unit (8-bit, 16-bit, and 32-bit words are the most common) in a particular computer, representing both the largest amount of data that can be handled by the microprocessor in one operation and also, as a rule, the width of the main data bus (the hard-

ware pathway that carries information from place to place within the computer).

**word processing** Abbreviated WP. The act of entering text and editing with a word processor. *See also* word processor.

**word processor** An application program for manipulating text-based documents; the electronic equivalent of paper, pen, typewriter, eraser, and, most likely, dictionary and thesaurus. Word processors run the gamut from simple through complex, but all ease the tasks associated with editing documents (deleting, inserting, rewording, and so on). Depending on the program and the equipment in use, word processors can display documents either in text mode, using highlighting, underlining, or color to represent italics, boldfacing, and other such formatting, or in graphics mode, wherein formatting and, sometimes, a variety of fonts appear on the screen as they will on the printed page. All word processors offer at least limited facilities for document formatting, such as font changes, page layout, paragraph indentation, and the like. Some word processors can also check spelling, find synonyms, incorporate graphics created with another program, correctly align mathematical formulas, create and print form letters, perform calculations, display documents in multiple on-screen windows, and enable users to record macros that simplify difficult or repetitive operations. *Compare* editor, line editor.

**wordwrap** The ability of a word-processing program to break lines of text automatically to stay within the page margins of a document. Line breaks created by wordwrap are known as soft returns. *See also* hard return, soft return.

**worksheet** A term used to describe a data file created by and used with an electronic spreadsheet program. Also, an alternative name for a spreadsheet. *See also* spreadsheet program.

**workstation** In general, a combination of input, output, and computing hardware that can be used for work by an individual. More often, however, the term refers to a powerful stand-alone computer of the sort used in computer-aided design and other applications requiring a high-end,

usually with capability. Infer to a network.

**worm** A computer that can create its own copies of itself. Compare to a virus. *See also* virus.

**WP** *See* word processing.

**wrap around** A cursor that moves from the end of one line to the beginning of the next line.

**write** To store data on a storage device. *See also* storage device.

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